

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of Amendments

Claims 1 and 4-24 were pending. By this paper, claims 1, 6, 15-17, 19 and 23 are amended, and new claims 25-30 are added. Claim 1 is amended to delete “having a function of connecting to another apparatus, the processing apparatus,” “the,” “exclusively,” “the other” and “the other.” Claim 1 is amended to recite “said,” “a connector adapted to receive an instruction given by another apparatus and to receive an electric power supplied from said another apparatus,” “said another,” “via said connector” and “the.” Claims 19 and 23 are similarly amended. Claim 6 is amended to recite “the.” Claims 15-17 are amended to depend from claim 13 instead of claim 12. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example on page 11, lines 9-12, and page 12, lines 14-17, of the specification.

New claims 25 and 26 depend upon independent claim 1. Claim 25 recites the limitation “wherein said power input unit is adapted to connect AC power supply, and said power circuit is adapted to convert AC voltage into DC voltage.” Claim 26 is also directed to the processing apparatus recited in claim, and recites the limitation “wherein said power circuit is adapted to provide power to image reader unit adapted to read an image. Support for new claims 25 and 26 may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example on page 12, lines 7-17.

New claim 27 is an independent claim directed to an image reading apparatus. New claim 28 is directed to the image reading apparatus recited in new claim 27, and recites the

limitation “wherein said connector is adapted to connect to the image processing apparatus via a cable.” Support for new claims 27 and 28 may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example on pages 10-18.

New claim 29 is an independent claim directed to a processing apparatus.

Support for new claim 29 may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example on pages 18-20.

New claim 30 which is an independent claim directed to an image reading apparatus. Support for new claim 30 may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example on pages 18-20.

No new matter is added to this application by these amendments.

The pending office action rejected claims 1, 19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,386 to Youn (“Youn”). [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 2].

Claims 4-18 and 20-22 were admitted to be novel over the prior art, but these claims were rejected for allegedly being obvious over certain references. [See 12/27/2007 Office Action at pp. 4, 5, 8, 10]. Specifically, the office action rejected claims 18, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,526,516 B1 to Ishikawa et al. (“Ishikawa”) in view of Youn.¹ [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 4]. Claims 18, 19, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Youn in view of Ishikawa. [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 5]. Claims 4-11, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35

¹ The office action does not explain its rejections of claims 18, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ishikawa and Youn. [See 12/27/2007 Office Action at pp. 4-5]. Rather, the office action refers to claims 2 and 3, both of which were canceled in a previously filed Amendment. [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 5]. In the rejections of claims 18, 22 and 24 are maintained, Applicant respectfully requests appropriate clarification.

U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Youn in view of Ishikawa as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 200210126516 A1 to Jeon (“Jeon”). [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 8]. Lastly, claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Youn further in view of Ishikawa as applied to claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719 B1 to Kimura (“Kimura”). [12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 10].

By this paper claims 18 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 18 and 22 are respectfully asserted to be moot.

B. Claims 1 and 4-17, 19-21, and 23-24 are Patentably Distinct from the Cited References

The rejections of claims 1 and 4-17, 19-21 and 23-24 are respectfully traversed. As explained more fully below, the requirements for such rejections are not met.

Applicant’s claim 1 recites:

“1. A processing apparatus comprising:

a power input unit adapted to connect a power supply;

a power circuit adapted to provide power to each part of said processing apparatus;

a switch adapted to connect or disconnect said power input unit and said power circuit, wherein the power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit through said switch; and

a connector adapted to receive an instruction given by another apparatus and to receive an electric power supplied from said another apparatus;

a power controller adapted to control said switch on the basis of the instruction given by said another apparatus via said connector, wherein said power controller is configured to operate by using the

electric power supplied from said another apparatus
via said connector.”

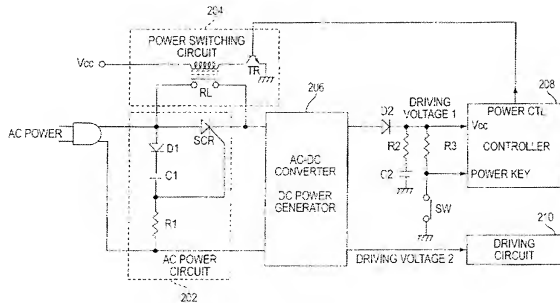
Youn is directed to a power supply control circuit for a standalone device (e.g., a VCR). [See Youn, Col. 3, line 33]. The object of the power control circuit is to minimize power consumption by generating DC power output intermittently at predetermined intervals during a power saving mode of operation. [Youn, Abstract].

The office action asserts that Youn teaches all the elements of Applicant’s claim

1. [See 12/27/2007 Office Action at p.2 (“With respect to claim 1, Youn teaches a **processing apparatus 240** having a function of connecting to **another apparatus 206**, the processing apparatus comprising: . . . wherein the **power controller 208** is configured to operate by using electric power supplied from the **other apparatus**”) (emphasis added)]. In support of its rejection, the office action cites reference numerals 202, 204, 206, 208, 210 and **240** of Youn.² [See 12/27/2007 Office Action at p. 2] These reference numerals are elements of the power supply control circuit diagramed in Youn’s Figure 2 (reproduced below).

² Reference numeral 240 does not correspond to an element of any embodiment of Youn’s invention. Further, Applicant was unable to find any mention of reference numeral 240 in Youn. For the purposes of this response, Applicant has treated the term “apparatus 240” merely as an assertion that Youn refers to an apparatus connected to another apparatus 206. If something else was intended, Applicant respectfully requests appropriate clarification.

FIG. 2



The power supply control circuit displayed in Figure 2 includes an AC power circuit 202, a power switching circuit 204, an AC-DC converter 206, a controller 208, and a driving circuit 210. [Youn, Figure 2]. The AC power circuit 202 provides AC power input to the AC-DC converter 206 according to an on/off state of a thyristor SCR. [Youn, Col. 2, lines 1-3]. The power switching circuit 204 includes a switching transistor TR and a relay RL, and determines whether to supply the AC power to the AC-DC converter 206 based on the state of a power control signal POWER CTL from the controller 208. [Youn, Col. 2, lines 19-39]. When AC power is provided to the AC-DC converter 206, it submits DC power to the controller 208 and a driving circuit 210. [Youn, Col. 3, lines 4-7]. The controller 208 generates the power control signal POWER CTL according to the normal or power saving mode of operation. [Youn, Col. 2, lines 40-47]. During the normal mode of operation, the controller 208 generates the power control signal POWER CTL in the logic high state, causing the power switching circuit 204 to provide AC power to the AC-DC converter 206. [Youn, Col. 2, lines 54-59]. However, during the power saving mode of operation, the controller 208 generates the power control signal POWER CTL alternating between the logic high and low states for predetermined periods.

[Youn, Col. 2, lines 60-63]. Thus, the power switching circuit 204 provides AC power to the AC-DC converter 206 intermittently (only when the power control signal is at the logic high state). [Youn, Col. 2, lines 63-65]. But, when the power switching circuit 204 is not providing AC power to the AC-DC converter 206, so it can provide DC power to the controller 208, the capacitor C2 discharges its charged voltage to the controller 208. [Youn, Col. 3, lines 10-11]. Therefore, depending on the state of the logic signal generated by the controller 208 during the power saving mode of operation, either the AC-DC converter 206 or the capacitor C2 provides the controller 208 with DC power. [Youn, Col. 2 line 60 to Col. 3, line 11].

Youn lacks any mention of an apparatus being a part of or having any role in the operation of its power supply control circuit. The only arguable references to an apparatus in Youn are to a VCR as an example of a “system . . . employing the inventive circuit” in Youn’s discussion of Figure 3 (a flowchart of the operation of the power supply circuit). [See e.g., Youn, Col. 3, line 33]. Hence, because Youn does not mention an apparatus as part of the power supply control circuit, it does not mention that controller 208 operates by using DC power supplied exclusively and directly from another apparatus. As stated above on page 13, Youn teaches that either the AC-DC converter 206 or the capacitor C2 provides DC power to controller 208 during the power saving mode of operation. Both the AC-DC converter 206 and the capacitor C2 are components of the same circuit as the controller 208. Further, because the capacitor C2 may also provide DC power to controller 208, power provided to controller 208 is not provided exclusively and directly from another apparatus. Therefore, Youn does not teach, disclose or suggest “a power controller adapted to control said switch on the basis of the instruction given by said another apparatus via said connector, wherein said power controller is

configured to operate by using the electric power supplied from said another apparatus via said connector” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

The office action does not contend that Ishikawa, Jeon, or Kimura teach, disclose or suggest “a power controller adapted to control said switch on the basis of the instruction given by said another apparatus via said connector, wherein said power controller is configured to operate by using the electric power supplied from said another apparatus via said connector” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Applicant’s own review of those references confirm that they do not teach, disclose or suggest “a power controller adapted to control said switch on the basis of the instruction given by said another apparatus via said connector, wherein said power controller is configured to operate by using the electric power supplied from said another apparatus via said connector” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Accordingly, as Applicant cannot find “a power controller” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1 in Youn, Ishikawa, Jeon or Kimura, at least independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-17 and 25-26 are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, independent claims 19, 23, 27 and 29-30, and dependent claims 20-21, 24 and 28 are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Applicant, however, reserves the right, as provided by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.131 and 1.132, to do so in the future as appropriate. Finally, Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the

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dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

CONCLUSION


For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4723.

Respectfully submitted,
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